

			(Rs. in lakhs)
Department of	General	NE Region	Total
Higher Education	6,83,751	75,599	7,59,350
School Education & Literacy	24,27,880	2,52,120	26,80,000

Assistance to children of poor families for higher education

†1405. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the National Sample Survey Organisation for 2004-05 which States that children belonging to the poorest families in the country have the lowest participation in higher education;

(b) if so, the percentage of the children of the poorest families residing in urban and rural areas, separately, who are able to afford higher, technical and vocational education; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has made a special provision for providing financial assistance to children of this section for getting higher education and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the National Sample Survey (NSS) 61st round (July 2004- June 2005) Report No.517, the proportion of the educated (i.e., those with level of general education secondary and above including diploma/ certificate course) was found to be the lowest in the bottom MPCE (Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure) class in the urban areas and the same was the case in the two bottom MPCE classes in the rural areas.

(c) The Government has accorded high importance to higher education during the 11th Five Year Plan for which an allocation of Rs.84,943 crore for higher education reflecting a nine fold increase over the 10th Plan has been provided. One of the commitment under the National Common Minimum Programme is to ensure that nobody is denied professional education because he or she is poor.

Government has provided reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) belonging to non-creamy layer in admission in all the Central Educational Institutions which will cover several students from poor families. Also, a scheme of Post-Graduate Scholarship for Students belonging to SC/ST/Minorities is initiated keeping in view the social background of the candidates from deprived section of the Society and to provide them an opportunity to undertake Post Graduate level studies.

Cap on tuition fees

1406. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide a cap on tuition fees charged by schools, including primary schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.